

BRITISH VALUES AT ST GABRIEL'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL 2017

The definition of British Values was set out by the government in the 2011 Prevent Strategy and added to Ofsted inspection guidance in July 2014:

"To create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to promote fundamental British Values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs."

At St Gabriel's these values are regularly promoted through learning and teaching, a rounded programme of assemblies and a positive behaviour policy allowing pupils to develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in and contribute positively to life in modern Britain. Our Missions Statement states that,

St Gabriel's is a welcoming school where:

- ❖ We pray together, care for each other and learn together
- ❖ We feel safe and respected
- ❖ We try to do our best
- ❖ Everyone is treated fairly
- ❖ We have fun with our friends

With Jesus Christ at the heart of our loving Catholic community.

Our Catholic school promotes Catholic values and as a result we cannot fail to promote British values. British Values derive from Christian values and are at the heart of what we teach.

Democracy

Democracy is valued within our school. Our school has strong contributions from the School Council who are voted for each year by all pupils. The School Council works with the school staff to raise standards. In these meetings students are able to discuss issues which affect their life within school. The election of the School Council members reflects our British electoral system and demonstrates democracy in action: candidates create manifestos, pupils consider characteristics important for an electoral representative, pupils vote in secret. Pupils are encouraged to express their opinions. We write to local MP's and Councillors.

Rule of Law

St Gabriel's has a very strong but positive behaviour policy based on our Mission Statement. Through this we consistently promote our high expectations of all members of our community. We have our Mission Statement which emphasises dignity and respect for all members of our school community, which everyone is expected to follow. Key Stage Celebrations are some examples of the events used as a positive reinforcement of good behaviour for all and positive contribution to our community. Those who disrupt learning will be given sanctions. This system has high expectations of all. It shows a clear link between right and wrong behaviour and therefore links to the civil and criminal law of England. Our commitment to developing young people who know the difference between right and wrong is reinforced in other ways:

- We discuss and establish class and school rules, ensuring an understanding of how these are just and fair.
- Visits from the authorities such as the police, local PCSOs, local street wardens regularly as part of the curriculum.

- We instil in children an understanding of right and wrong.
- During Religious Education when rules for particular faiths are thought about
- During other school subjects, where there is respect and appreciation for different rules - in a sports lesson.
- We talk about how conflicts in and out of school can be resolved - encourage pupils to think about how wrongs can be put right.

A sense of right and wrong is totally underpinned by our Catholic understanding. Right and wrong are moral matters and not just legalities and are informed by the teaching of Jesus Christ and through our promotion of the Gospel values.

Individual Liberty

St. Gabriel's provides a safe and supportive environment in which students are actively encouraged to make choices. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for our young people to make choices safely, through empowering education. Students are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our PSHE Weeks i.e. e-Safety, anti-bullying and through our RE lessons. Students are encouraged to participate in our extra-curricular clubs and opportunities. We encourage the development of self-confidence and self-esteem in pupils. We promote positive attitudes to learning. Help pupils understand we have responsibilities as well as rights.

Mutual respect (Caring, sharing and listening to others)

We believe that respect for others is a fundamental element of moral development. We encourage discussions in all areas but particularly in lessons such as RE, English, Geography and History. We actively support all to develop their own reasoned views about moral and ethical issues. We encourage all pupils to understand that they have rights and responsibilities as members of St. Gabriel's and the wider community. Discussions focus on ways we can help and support those who are less fortunate than ourselves.

Tolerance of those of different Faiths and Beliefs

At St. Gabriel's we aim to promote the understanding and appreciation of different faiths and cultures both within our school and the wider world. We actively promote courtesy and good manners towards all. In our RE curriculum we study key beliefs and traditions of Hinduism, Judaism and Islam. We actively monitor and tackle all forms of bullying and harassment (This includes cyber bullying, prejudice-based bullying related to appearance, SEN, sex, race, religion and belief, disability, sexual orientation or gender reassignment) in line with the 2010 Equality Act.

At St. Gabriel's we will actively challenge opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including "extremist" views.

John Hayes
December 2014

Reviewed by Governors January 2023